

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Item of footwear ~~(1), in particular a motorcycle boot,~~ comprising:

a rigid shell ~~[[4]]~~ which is produced from a first material and which defines a body which is intended to surround the foot of a user, the body having a lower portion ~~[[20]]~~ which forms a sole, an upper portion ~~[[22]]~~ which forms a vamp, an inner lateral portion ~~[[21]]~~ and an outer lateral portion ~~[[23]]~~, said lateral portions connecting the lower portion ~~[[20]]~~ and the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~, these four portions extending in an extension direction ~~[[6]]~~ between a first zone which forms a heel ~~[[8]]~~ and a second zone which forms a tip ; and (10), said item having

an opening ~~(16, 18)~~ defined in only one of ~~[[the]]~~ said four portions of the body, said opening extending through the rigid shell and being closed by means of a flexible pad ~~(12, 14)~~ which is produced from a second material, said second material being more flexible than the first material.

2. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the opening ~~(16, 18)~~ is provided with spacing from the ends ~~(24, 26)~~ of the body in the extension direction.

3. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening ~~[[16]]~~ is

provided in a zone of the lower portion ~~[[20]]~~ which serves to support the sole of the foot of the user.

4. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening ~~[[16]]~~ extends transversely to the direction of extension ~~[[6]]~~ over less than half the width of the item of footwear.

5. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad ~~[[12]]~~ extends in a recessed manner relative to the rigid shell ~~[[5]]~~.

6. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening ~~[[18]]~~ is provided in the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~.

7. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening ~~[[18]]~~ is provided substantially at the centre of the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~ relative to the extension direction.

8. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

9. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad ~~(12, 14)~~ has a hardness of between 60 and 80 Shore.

10. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ further comprising another rigid shell which defines an upper ~~[[4]]~~ which is intended for

receiving the leg of the user and means ~~[[30]]~~ for articulating the upper relative to the body.

11. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening ~~[[16]]~~ is provided in a zone of the lower portion ~~[[20]]~~ which serves to support the sole of the foot of the user.

12. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad ~~[[12]]~~ extends in a recessed manner relative to the rigid shell ~~[[5]]~~.

13.(currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that the~~ further comprising another opening ~~(18)~~ is provided in the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~.

14.(currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that the~~ further comprising another opening ~~[[18]]~~ is provided in the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~.

15. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that the~~ further comprising another opening ~~(18)~~ is provided in the upper portion ~~[[22]]~~.

16. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

17. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

18. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

19. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

20. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.